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PUBLIC MEETING

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SCHOONER ERNESTINA COMMISSION (SEC)  
*Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

Friday, April 10, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
Corson Building – New Bedford Whaling National Historic Park  
33 William Street, New Bedford, MA

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MINUTES OF JANUARY 23, 2015 MEETING

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**Commissioners in Attendance:** Laura Pires-Hester, Steve Walsh, Fred Sterner, Eugene Monteiro, Brian Rothschild Licy Do Canto and Karl Pastore  
Also: NHP Superintendent, Megan Kish; Mary Anne McQuillan (SEMA), Chuck Smiler & Rick Porteus (Julius Britto [SEMA President] unable to attend)

**Meeting called to order at 1:05PM**

**Announcements:** Dr. Pires-Hester welcomed everyone to the meeting, the beginning of a new year for the Commission and for Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey. She emphasized that we are at another “milestone”, one of many in the Schooner’s history, and we are looking ahead to forward movement. The December Restoration Announcement Celebration was a wonderful event that demonstrated the significance and love for her and wishes for a remarkable future that would match her past but also reveal a wonderful “new history.” That will only happen with commitment, persistence, and imagination, and the collaboration of many, hopefully some who are as yet unknown. We need to stay open for new possibilities, meanwhile trying to plan for “preferred futures:” what do we want to happen in her “post-restoration” phase? Much remains to be done, many others need to be involved; we need to get to it. She expressed thanks and appreciation for the Commission, for SEMA, and for the stalwart volunteers (two who were present, Chuck Smiler and Rick Porteus). On behalf of the entire Commission, she thanked DCR Commissioner Jack Murray and all the DRC staff, especially SEC Commissioner Karl Pastore, for everything they have done.

**Motion to approve minutes:** **MOTION** by Mr. Monteiro and seconded by Mr. Pastore; motion approved unanimously.

**DCR Report:** Mr. Pastore reported that the ship is still at New Bedford Pier, awaiting a “window” of at least 30-40 hours of clear sailing weather. He will notify the Commissioners when the ship is leaving. Dr. Pires-Hester asked if we should revisit the issue of the winter cover on, since weather forecasts. Mr. Pastore answered no, because we would need to remove the cover to tow the ship; Mr. Sterner added that removal takes more than a day and we need to leave immediately once the weather “go-ahead” is given. All are concerned and hopeful that the weather conditions will improve sufficiently soon.

Mr. Pastore was asked if the current hiring freeze will affect the Restoration position in the DCR-Booth Bay contract. He answered no, it’s still part of the contract and not affected.

**Report from SEMA:** Ms. McQuillan reported that SEMA took in \$84,000 and now has \$200,000 in the bank. In response to Dr. Pires-Hester's question, she added that \$800,000. is still needed to fulfill SEMA's part of the contract. SEMA is working with DCR on the Memorandum of Agreement, a three way MOU between SEMA, DCR & the SEC.

**Planning for the Future of the Ernestina-Morrissey: What's next?**

Dr. Pires-Hester raised the issue first about the **Commission's name**: on one of the announcements about the 12/18/14 Reception, she noticed that Schooner Ernestina-Morrissey Commission was named. That was not an official change, and she believes that this should not be a priority issue right now, but wanted to have feedback from other Commissioners. Others added that it probably should be changed to coincide with the Schooner's name change; that other parties would need to be brought into the discussion, e.g. legislators, etc. There was general consensus that this is not a priority issue right now, and therefore tabled for later. At the same time, we still do have SEC openings and need to move forward on that.

The floor was opened for brainstorming about our "**post-restoration "preferred future[s]"**"

All Commissioners, SEMA representative, and volunteers participated in an extensive discussion, including at least the following points:

- What exactly is the "end/vision" for Ernestina-Morrissey?
- Clearly, she must continue her primary and broadly-defined "educational" role: what exactly does that look like, including MA Maritime role?
- We need to identify what we need to get to our goal, including who else should be brought to the table.
- We must have conversation as soon as possible with MA Maritime, to clarify what their "preferred future" is, and to clarify specifics re maintenance, etc. (JDr. Pires-Hester shared that Admiral Gurnon had conveyed at the December celebration the Academy's institutional commitment to this partnership, as well as that of Commandant Tom Bushe. **She agreed to follow up to try to arrange a meeting with them possibly in March.**)
- We must continue to work in public/private partnerships; continued financial support from public funding (particularly from MA) must be assumed for Ernestina-Morrissey's future.
- We must expand the Schooner's visibility/support beyond immediate region.
- 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary can perhaps be used as a rallying point/goal point.
- We must remember that there are still items that are not included within this restoration contract: i.e., engine, tight bulkheads, rigging, etc.
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- Dr. Pires-Hester asked Mr. DoCanto to chair a **Working Group** to meet/conference call to do initial planning and report at the next meeting. **Mr. DoCanto agreed, and other members Mr. Rothschild, Mr. Sterner, Mr. Porteus, and Mr. Smiler also volunteered.** Mr. Smiler also reminded everyone that we had had a "visioning/planning" group before and he would circulate previous documents to all.

Dr. Pires-Hester thanked all for attending and participating.

**Motion to close the meeting:** made by Mr. Monteiro, seconded by Mr. Pastore, passed unanimously..

**Next Scheduled meeting: Monday March 2, 2015, 11am-1pm. (rescheduled for Friday, March 10, 1-3pm)**

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Steve Walsh, Secretary*